

JOHN AND MARY MAGDLENA MUNZ HUBER

John Huber, son of Johannes Huber and



Anna Elizabeth Huber. Born November 1, 1840, in Dottnacht, Switzerland. Married Mary Magdalena Munz October 18, 1863, in Payson. Died November 16, 1914, in Midway.

Mary Magdalena Munz, daughter of Heinrich Munz and Elizabeth Munz Munz. Both had same surname. Born January 26, 1843, at Dantzhansen, Canton Turgau, Switzerland. Died July 10, 1935, Midway.

John Huber immigrated to Utah in 1863, leaving Switzerland on May 3. The ship, *Antarctic*, carried 300 passengers and was on the ocean 49 days.

He crossed the plains with the Peter Nebeker Company, arriving on October 13, 1863. On October 18, 1863, John Huber and Mary Magdalena Munz were married at the Payson home of John Diem, with Bishop Fairbanks performing the ceremony. He was met at Payson by his mother and stepfather, Martin and Anna Elizabeth Naegeli, who had immigrated in 1861.

In the Spring of 1864 John Huber and his wife moved to Provo Valley, where the first settlers had come in 1859-60. They located in the upper settlement of Mound City. They lived in a log house near the old Schneitter home. A baby boy was born in October, but died, and was buried in the first cemetery on the hill.

In 1868 Mr. Huber and most able-bodied men found well-paid employment on the Union Pacific Railroad, approaching Green River. Many men brought home wagons, stoves, teams, etc. John Huber and Jacob Buehler operated one of the first saw mills on Snake Creek, west of the Provo River. Logs were hauled from surrounding mountains and sawed into lumber. In 1870 a house was partly built for the family when Mr. Huber was called on a mission to Switzerland. He left April 17, 1871 and returned July 4, 1874. He served as president of the Swiss mission. He helped to translate the

659

660

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

Book of Mormon from the English to the German language and was editor of the *Millennial Star*.

The farm was located up Snake Creek. Soon after, the family moved from Snake Creek to Little Cottonwood where he worked as weighmaster at the stone quarry. The stones were loaded, shipped, and delivered to Salt Lake City for building of the Salt Lake Temple. Two years later Mr. Huber moved to Salt Lake, and later returned to Midway and the farm.

Mr. Huber was a prominent citizen taking part in most community projects of varied interests: He was a Black Hawk War veteran, agent for Wasatch and Jordan Valley railroad, census taker from 1880-1900, member of the school board for 24 years, secretary of the Midway Irrigation Company for 10 years, Justice of the Peace for two years, agent for crop reporting for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, teacher of a class in penmanship. He compiled a history of Midway Ward from 1859 to 1900, and took the school census.

Mr. Huber was an accomplished musician. He composed many poems and set the words to music. He organized a choir, a male chorus, glee club, and furnished music for church, conferences, ward entertainments, and funerals.

He was ward clerk for thirty years from 1878 to 1908 and was known for the almost perfect records he kept.

Mr. Huber built several houses in Midway, some of which are still standing. He and his family—sons, grandsons, and granddaughters—served 43 years in the mission fields.

Mary Magdalena was the third of five children in her family. The family was religiously inclined, claiming membership in the Church of the Reformation.

When Mary was seven her mother died, and she grew up with a step-mother, attending school and learning household duties. At the age of 20 she became intensely interested in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. With a close friend, Amelia Stumpf, she would walk a distance of eight miles to hear the missionaries preach.

Mary was baptized a member of the Church April 15, 1861. In the meantime, her brother Conrad and sister Bertha came to America, and she and her friend Amelia followed in 1863. They traveled by train to Florence, Nebraska, and then came by team

the rest of the way to Salt Lake. At Chimney Rock, Mary and Amelia were walking arm in arm during a heavy storm, when lightning struck them. Amelia was killed, and Mary knocked unconscious. She was revived and rode part of the way in a wagon after that.

The company, headed by John Huber, landed in Salt Lake September 24, 1863, and Mary went to Payson where her grandparents Naegeli had settled two years earlier. On October 23 she married John Huber and their first home was a large room where eight other people slept on the floor every night. John worked at a cannery in Payson.

In the spring of 1864 John and Mary moved to Midway, living with Dr. John Gerber and family.

During her husband's missionary service, his work in Salt Lake and all his labors in Midway, Mary stood by as a faithful wife and mother. She was a member of the first Relief Society in Midway, and served as a counselor to Elizabeth Wintch and also to Martha Bronson. She was an officer in the Relief Society for more than 20 years.

Mary maintained her home and farm on Snake Creek, where she died at the age of 93.

Children of John and Mary Huber are:
John Martin Huber, married Elizabeth Gertsch

Henry Albert Huber, married Margaret Abegglen

Mary Magdalena Huber Probst, married Jacob Probst

Emma Elizabeth Huber Gibson, married James Gibson

Eliza Otilla Huber Gibson, married Alexander Gibson

Matilda Huber

Nephi Huber, married Ann Bronson

Joseph Emanuel Huber

Ida Huber Abplanalp, married William Abplanalp.

John Huber